

Council on Postsecondary Education
Committee on Equal Opportunities
February 17, 2003

Equal Opportunity Planning 1997-2002 KY Plan and OCR Partnership Status

A final determination of the status of Kentucky's partnership with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights is due by March 31, 2003. Because all of the commitments in the agreement have not been completed, it is possible that the Office for Civil Rights may choose to extend the partnership but focus on the commitments not yet completed; e.g., renovations, the Kentucky State University education program, and the University of Louisville's Pathways to Success Program.

The partnership with the U. S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights ended December 31, 2002. The partnership agreement is intended to bring Kentucky into full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The partnership encompasses the Kentucky Plan and focuses more specifically on Title VI. The goals of the Kentucky Plan and the Partnership are to:

1. Increase minority student enrollment at traditionally white institutions.
2. Increase the number of minorities employed at the traditionally white institutions, especially in administrative and faculty positions.
3. Continue to strengthen Kentucky State University, the Commonwealth's historically black institution, in its role in the postsecondary education system.

The OCR has indicated in previous reports that the Commonwealth has completed the commitments identified in items #1 and #2. Portions of the commitments identified in item #3 also have been completed. The commitments completed are: a) the renovation of Carver Hall classroom building; b) KSU's development and implementation of a program of communication and diversity training; c) CPE's analysis and assurance that the benchmark funding process will not disadvantage KSU; d) KSU, UK, UofL, and the council's collaboration to enhance and strengthen KSU's education program; and e) the Governor and the Postsecondary Education Nominating Board's assurance that the KSU Board of Regents is of the highest caliber.

The commitments in item #3 not yet completed are: a) the renovation of Hathaway Hall classroom and office building; b) the renovation of Young Hall

dormitory; c) KSU's assurance to substantially narrow the gap between the performance rate of its students on the PRAXIS II as compared to the Kentucky statewide performance average; and d) UofL's Pathways Program.

Each of the universities provided status reports on their efforts to implement the commitments of the partnership agreement to the council office in September 2002. The reports from institutions are used to develop the status reports to the OCR. The OCR has requested that the final partnership report focus exclusively on the commitments that have not yet been completed. There are two remaining areas to be addressed by the Commonwealth. Following is a summary of the areas addressed in the final report to the OCR:

I. Enhancement of Kentucky State University

- The Commonwealth is presently operating without a biennial budget constitutionally enacted by the Kentucky General Assembly. The Governor executed an executive order with an attached spending plan for fiscal year 2002-03. Although the council recommended additional state budget authority for the Hathaway Hall renovation and institutional authority for the Young Hall renovation. These projects cannot be completed until the General Assembly enacts a biennial budget giving authorization for their completion. The General Assembly will meet in February 2003 and may enact a budget at that time. The Carver Hall renovation is underway and Phase I of the Hathaway Hall renovation is underway.
- KSU is working with Kentucky's Education Professional Standards Board and the other public institutions to strengthen and enhance its academic programs; in particular, the education program.
- While it is not a part of the partnership agreement with the OCR, KSU and the council are proceeding with the comprehensive assessment of KSU as discussed at the September council meeting. The KSU Comprehensive Assessment Oversight Committee selected Baker & Hostetler, LLP, of Cleveland, Ohio, to complete the assessment of the university's academic programs and the adequacy and use of financial resources. The contract to engage Baker & Hostetler was approved by the Government Contract Review Committee in December 2002. There are nine members on the review team. The team began the assessment in December following approval of its contract. Two members of the assessment team visited Frankfort Tuesday, January 21, to discuss the visit of the full assessment team scheduled for February 2-4, 2003. Mr. Raymond Pierce, Baker & Hostetler, attended the council meeting and responded to questions. The anticipated completion date is February or March 2003.
- Although it is not a part of the partnership with the OCR, the council's 2002-04 biennial budget recommendations included a request for state

funds to complete the federal match required by the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998.

- In July 2002, the Governor appointed two new members to the KSU Board of Regents.

II. University of Louisville's Pathways to Success Program

The University of Louisville reported that they are collaborating with Jefferson County Public Schools and Jefferson Community College to improve student preparedness for postsecondary education. These collaborative activities are designed to prevent an erosion of the number of African Americans admitted and enrolling at UofL. Also, the freshman summer transition program implemented in 2000 will be expanded to include some students that would normally be referred to the pathways program. The program will accommodate up to 100 students each summer.

In the 2001 and 2002 reports, UofL indicated that of the 20 resident African American students that signed contracts for the Pathways Program in fall 2000, 13 were enrolled at Jefferson Community College in fall 2001, and one transferred to UofL. Thirty-eight resident African Americans signed Pathways contracts for fall 2001 and enrolled in classes at JCC. The university provided one advisor to assist the students in the Pathways Program. The university reported that an additional advisor was needed for fall 2002. The 2002 report noted that African American students are not disproportionately referred to the Pathways Program. The following information was offered:

- There were 824 total applicants (671 Kentucky residents) referred to the Pathways Program in fall 2002. Of the 671 Kentucky residents, 192 (28.6 percent) are African American and 444 (66.2 percent) are white.
- The percentage of all African American applicants referred to the Pathways Program decreased from 27.9 percent to 27.5 percent.
- Of the 192 Kentucky resident African American applicants referred to the fall 2002 Pathways Program, 38 enrolled at Jefferson Community College, 16 enrolled in other Kentucky colleges, 14 enrolled at out-of-state colleges, one enlisted in the armed forces, six did not respond to the survey, 12 did not enroll, 13 could not be contacted by phone survey, and 92 did not respond to phone calls or letters.
- The number of African American students that transferred from the Pathways Program to UofL increased 600 percent from 3 in 2001 to 17 in 2002.
- The university support for the program includes: nine full-time math and reading instructors, office space, computing facilities, instructional equipment and supplies, site coordinator at UofL but employed by JCC/JTC, an academic advisor, tuition for all students taking developmental courses at JCC/JTC, and access to computer/student records.

Students not meeting the minimum admissions criteria to enroll at UofL are sent a letter from the Director of Admissions informing the student that they have not been admitted to the university and also providing information on the Pathways to Success Program. A follow-up letter is sent encouraging them to enroll at Jefferson Community College, along with a packet of application materials for the Pathways Program, including three attachments that describe the program, contact names, information regarding financial aid, housing, and requirements for automatic admission to UofL.

If the university does not receive a response from the student within ten days, a postcard notice is sent reminding the student about the Pathways Program and inviting them to attend an information session. They also receive the name, phone number, and e-mail address of a contact at the institution. If ten additional days pass without the student contacting the institution, a third letter is forwarded to the student notifying them of another information session, along with a postage paid card to indicate their future academic plans. As a final attempt to contact the student, the institution will phone them.

When the student arrives at the information session they receive a complete package of materials, including an application to enroll at JCC, and a PASSPORT (Pathways Activities, Student Strategies, Planner, Orientation, Resources, Transition) booklet informing them of the requirements and responsibilities associated with the program. Should a student enroll at JCC without completing the consent agreement for the Pathways to Success program, they receive a letter requesting them to complete and return the agreement.

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